Merry Christmas!

The Middle School Good Times

Vol. 13 #2 Christmas 1986 Michigan Aye. Middle School 25¢

A door decorating contest was a highlight of the holiday season as homerooms competed to have the best-looking door. The winners were

St. Nick's Day - Origins

St. Nicholas's Day was December 6. It is a custom in Europe for children to receive a visit from Santa before Christmas. The visit is to remind people that Jesus is coming. It is a part of the Advent season. The children get a treat in their stockings on St. Nicholas Day if they have hung out their stocking or put out their shoes.

The Dutch brought the custom to America.

St. Nicholas himself was a real character, a bishop who had great wealth. He visited homes who were in need of help. He spent almost his entire fortune on the poor people. He gave them the money at night while they were sleeping. That created the custom.

t. podkol

BOYS' BASKETBALL BEGINS

Boys' basketball season begins this month. The boys play their first game January 7 here at home.

The team is made up of Scott Sielski, Tom Podkol, Chris Stratton, Ricky Yarbrough, Shelton Mitchell, Brett Baney, Butch Murray, Jeromy Krautigam, Jim Bogema, Gary Imus, Miles Blakley, Alex Stevens, Jason Pritts, Brett Herwick, Brian Meyer, and Bill McNeil.

The 7th grade team includes J.Ashbaugh, J.Bommerscheim, J.Bowers, D.Brown, C. Cameron, M.Erickson, M.Hall, M.Hughes, J. Jus, K.Kruissel, C.Kuhlman, J.Lyon, A. Pechar, N.Piecyk, C.Soudek, K.VanBrusse and E.Webb.

Christmas Joys

Christmas is a time for joy
For every girl and every boy
Stocking stuffers and electric trains,
Firetrucks and video games.
People running this way and that
Fathers looking for a topcoat and hat.
Candies, spices, and Christmas cakes,
So much food your mother can bake.
Mothers buying presents for their son
Not until Christmas eve is everything done.
Yes Christmas is a time of joy,
For every girl and every boy.

c. stratton

Rocket football

The Paw Paw boys' rocket football season ended undefeated. In their last games the boys scored 48 against Cassopolis' score of 0. They beat Decatur 68 to 0. With such scores it's amazing they didn't scare their opponents from play ing at all.

sb

Christmas Decorations

I am a Christmas ornament.
I hang from a tree.
I live in a big house
where nobody can see me.
I get pulled on from the
kids when they play.
I get swung from side to
side when the baby sees me.
I glow in the dark
when they hit the switch.
I get rattled when it's
time to open presents.
I get packed away for
the rest of the year.
I have to say bye
for now until it's time
again.

M. Henderson

Encounter

As the big greyhound bus stops in the empty parking lot and the waiting crowd hurries on, I quietyly board the bus. I sit by one old lady who has many empty bags. I ask her, "Are you going to the mall too?"

I notice she is a bag lady going to the city on her last coins to get the clothes and food discarded by the city people. She will live all alone in the cold on a city street with all hopes to get an old coat or blanket to keep warm during the cold winter nights.

The bus comes to a jolting stop. I quietly say good bye and make my way to the back door. All through the day the memories of the lady flash before me. I can't stand it anymore and I rush back into the nearby store to purchase a basketful of food. I make my way out of the mall to find the lady.

a. weatherwax

Teeny Tiny Christmas Card below.

Merry Christmas!

your name.

Entrepreneurs

Thinking back, I can remember my cousin and I planning a business franchise in my granmother's garden. Gina had this idea about how to make money that we longed for desperately. She siad we could sneak into grandmother's garden and take all of the vegetables we wanted. Grandma would think that racoons or something had got them. Then we would walk around the lake we lived on, going from house to house and all through the trailer park selling these fresh veggies. It was very late in the year, well into fall, so the vegetables were not very good. We picked all we could find, good or bad, and sold them, trudging therough the wind that chilled us.

The total of our business earnings was a mere $1.35 to be split three, instead of two ways, because grandma found out that it wasn't racoons, but her little entrepreneur granddaughters.

SLEDDING

The sound of the sleds
Flying over the hill
with a whooshshbambang!
They flew with a shrill.
Like the hunters of the night
their great appetite.
They flew over the cliff
with a bimbambiff.
They landed in the snow
all puffy and white.
They hit each other-
just out-of-spite.

a. stevens

Snowbirds

Snowbirds look in
from the cold
With eyes of gold.
fury little birds
Each just like a twin
with wings dampened
By a little snow.
They fly to ach window
To see what will happen
Children and parents
Have smiles of cheer
with all the exciting things
They'll get this year.

g.morrison

P.A.L. Presented in Lifeskills

The P.A.L. group has come to the middle school. It includes Kathy Hoover, Nancy Clarke, Bob Stilson, Jeannine Pawlicki, Ann Baker, Lisa Cassada, Denise Montgomery, Tammy Ruthruff, Stacy Hiemstra, John Glmoski, Brent White, Sherry Flowers and Jeff Wert. They are all Paw Paw High students who are part of a peer assitant leadership program just begun at the high school this fall.

They visited the lifeskill and health classes to explain their purpose, which is to help students feel better about themselves and to be available to help out those in need. They promise confidentiality. They have a special room for their group- one with no windows and the door locks.

The P.A.L. group members will help you with any problem and keep it confidential as long as it is not against the law. They even help freshmen to become comfortable at the school. They will talk to those who are teasing freshmen and persuade them against it. At the dances there are P.A.L.s who are there to help ; they are not there to watch over you.

The P.A.L.s talked about S.A.D.D.- a group of students against drunk driving. They form committments with students and others who vouch for a ride for those riding with a drunk or those who are too drunk to drive themselves. .. no questions asked.

One thing that the P.A.L.s did was to ask questions of the students such as True or false- the older the person the wiser? True or false- teachers forget sometimes what it was like to be a kid? True or false - being my age is pretty easy? True or false- You should judge people on how they look?

Students in the classes gave some thoughtful answers to those kinds of questions.

h.briley

SNOW

As we walked down the hill
They hit us
Like a thousand tiny frozen
people
Coming in for an attack,
Then , hitting our faces,
Disappearing into thin air.
We came upon
A crystallized world
That used to be
Our back yard woods.
Unexpectedly
We ran into a frozen kingdom
The center of the world
And the biggest tree
Was the Queen
of this kingdom.
She was splendid
But all cold, hard ice.
We came out of the woods
And went into our house
To sleep.
And dream of all we saw.

C. Blanton

Holiday Dinner

Dinner is served.
The turkey is an undressed bird, cooked
Golden brown.
Mashed potatoes look like
A bag of cotton balls.
Orange carrots -
A row of plates in a dinner line.
Peas are the color of the
Bright -green spring grass.

I like to pick tender turkey
Tid bits from the carcass.
Pumpkin pie is a delicious
dessert.

A. Soule

"Noel"

Christmas Specials and Not-so Specials

Do you remember the old Christmas favorites,"The Grinch that Stole Christmas", "The Glo Friends Save Christmas" or "The Smurfs' Christmas Special"? Well, we've chosen new names for some new Christmas specials.

Some of our personal favorites are "Smurps' Christmas Not-so-Special", "Donald's Christmas Carol," "Pinocchio the Long-nosed Donkey" and " The Christmas No one Wanted." Some other possilbe renamings could include "Santa's Pocket Money", "Skinny Albert's Christmas Special" and "Santa and the Three Bears."

j.lee

The Big Questions? Answers Below

The big question some students have asked is "where are the computers?" and "where does the money from the dances go?" This reporter talked with Mr. Drury. The school bought five new computers this fall. Three Commodore 64's were bought along with monitors,disk drives and printers. That left some money so the school bought an Apple IIc and an Apple computer that are coming in January.

To help the computer funds, Mrs. Dobbs set up the school store. The money earned from the school store goes to the computer fund.

The money from the dances goes to the student council. The money spent by the student council has to be voted on by the council and be approved by the school administration. For instance, the drinking fountains were donated by student council and the upstairs locker cost were assisted by those funds. The pay phone (if okayed) will come out of studant council money. The music for the dances and the snacks come out of student council's wallet too.

b. wilkinson

Hanukah - Dec. 27

Hanukah is celebrated December 27 and for seven days following. It is the celebration of the miracle during the war the Maccabees fought in 144b.c. against the Syrians. The light inthe oil lamp burned for eight days when it should have lasted one day.

Why Are there Commercials?

We are here today to answer the question, "Why do we have commercials?" Are commercials only there in tv for us to hear, "Mom, why is your hair so soft and silky?" Is that the greatest question known to man? I think not.

The real reason commercials are there may be so that we have time to get something to eat and not miss the show. Maybe it is to have the t.v. stars get paid for a full hour of show when they really only do a 45 minute program. It is hard to say but think of all the things you can do in the three minutes of commercials. You can vacuum , wash your face, shoot a turkey, take your dog outside, and many many other things. Commercials are great, aren't they?

I think the really best reason is they enable you to get to the restroom and comb your hair. What if we were in a movie theater? We'll answer that question next time. Bye now.

j.lean

Shopping at holiday time

At Christmas we always shop
with a jump and a hop.
We go to every store
and find muc h more.
Gifts to hide under the tree
We always try to be carefree.
Yet we race with time
to save a dime.
Our family goes
to every place for clothes.
We catch every sale
It makes us turn pale.
For we've shopped for hours
Soone our faces turn sour.
We ache with pain
Wishing we had a cane.
Our feet look for a seat
When we're finally done
We leave in a run.
For now we're all sick
Of hearing of old St. Nick!

k.haefner

First Semester P.E. Results

The P.E. tests for the first semester are completed. The following are the results.

New members to the 500 club include Phil Fleming 535, Shelton Mitchell, 533, Pete Pierson,533, Shane Casey, 522, Wiley Stanley, 515, Cory Cameron, 509, Jim Boley, 508, and John Lean 502. Kim Haefner also scored 502 to become the second gilr in history to make the 500 club.

Highest scores for 7th grade were Cory Cameron 509 and Sheletha Manuel, 398. Highest points for 8th grade were Phil Fleming with 535 and Kim Haefner, 502.

New school records were set by Kim Haefner in all time high girls' score and new chin record of 15. Sue Pasterik set the third all time high score for girls with 483 and tied the 30' shuttle record fo 9.2. Kathy Klein tied the obstacle record of 9.2 .

7th grade Sheleltha Maneul set new chin record of 16 and tied bar dip record of 15.

Good Times tk Staff

The October and December issues of the Good Times were done by the 6th and 7th hour students in Mrs. Swanson's English class. Much writing was also contributed by members of other 8th grade English classes.

Special thank you's to Heather Briley who has repeatedly kept an eye out for newsworthy/feature story material.

For Christmas, I'd like a dinosaur....

What do I want most for Christmas? I want a lithisaurus.A lithisaurus lives in the southern part of Antarctica although a few have been found in Central Africa. This animal is an unusual one. Its best friends are the zebra and the leopard. It eat only Mexcian food and even brushes its two teeth. I don't think he'll fit in my stocking but I doubt if my dad would mind moving the cars out of the garage for him because they really are helpful. They clean, shovel snow and they're really good if you have a bully picking on you.

n. wellington

What Do the Faculty Want?

Along that same line of thinking the staff interviewed teachers and students about their special wishes for Christmas... and what they don't want.

Mr. Martin would like an extra five hours a day. Mr. Snyder would like "a Cadillac." Mr. Edinger would settle for"new tires for his Blazer."

Mr. Kannegieter would like a "Corvette." Mr. Erickson said, "Bah humbug." Mr. Watterworth wants"a new second hour math class." Mrs. Swanson wants "two weeks in the sunny Bahamas while taking a sitter for the kids."

Mrs. Matson would like "everything." Mrs. Heneghan would settle for new teeth and "a gold plated set at that." (or was that her Lamborghini?)

Mr. Lutz, not to be outdone by the car nuts above, wants "a Maserati." Mrs. Dobbs would like a "return to sanity." (is that anywhere near the UP?) Mr. Topp would like "my family to be happy." Mrs. C. Smith would like " a 4 w.d. truck and a new house and garage to match."

Mrs. A. Smith would like "a male, tall, blond and handsome." Mr. Ruesink -ould not like anything since he says,"I already have every thing." Mrs. Mahanty wants "a blizzard." Mrs. Reinsch would like a " Porsche." Mrs. Hughes wants to win the Chrismas "lotto." Mr. Drury would like a "week at Hilton Head tennis camp."

Mrs. Davidson would like a "trip to Europe." Mrs. Kalisiak would like "daimonds and gold, not flowers and candy." Mrs. Vliek wants to "go to Florida." Mrs. Marcelletti

would like "excalibur." (is it a car or is she looking for King Arthur?) Mr. Hone would like " a new piano". Mrs. Maxwell would like "diamonds." Mrs. Connelly wants "a watch." Mrs. Firestone wants, "clothes, moreclothes." Mrs. Chavoya wants "a disk player." Mr.R. Brill agreed with Mr. Erickson and said "Bah humbug."

Finally, the proudest papa on the faculty said, said he'd alre ady received the best - "his twins," said Mr. Zolp!!.....

Students' Wishes...

Kris Nelson wants " all F's and some new dresses." (Huh?) NMiles Blakley wants "Jem doll and Barbie and the Rockers." Candy Ziemba wants"John Taylor." Cathy Craddock wants " my brothers to stop being jerks." Dale Henslee wants " a bike." Kim Waever wants "Doug Pollack." Kathy Klein wants "Tom Cruise." Julli Forrest wants "Paul Lengone wrapped in a Hudson box with a bow on top."

Kim Haefner wants "a lotto ticket worht millions." Jason PRitts wants " a big fat humongous 50 megaton nuclear missile so I can nuke Libya and have a bonfire over its ashes." (good grief) Brian Meyer wants "a yoyo."

Corya Underwood would go"on a sleigh ride with Don Johnson and never come back." Teelina Rumbaugh wants " fiv e foot heart-to-heart bear." Gina Morrison and Brandi Casanto want "Andrew Ridgeley from 'Wham'." Jenny LEe wants "my two fron teeth."

Allen Kowalski wants a "ferrari and Miss Universe." Alex Stevens wants a "commode." Jessica Brown suggests a "container of toilet cleaner for him." (see above)

Rochelle Motter wants"a water bed and bon jovi." Jim Bogema wants "Barbie dolls." Bill McNeil wants "huge corporation making money."

Aimee Gebott wants Alex to get "whatever he deserves." Kim Johnson and Nicole Wellington want "Bon jovi- live." Jim Karban wants "a person just like me."

Merry Christmas one and all!

A few things people don't want include" Sarah TRiquet not wanting "a frog." Annie Diedrich doesn't "a plaid shirt." Doug Marr "doesn't want cavities." Jeff Curry doesn't want "a brick." Amie Stilson doesn't want "a rubber duckie."

Joe Keithley doesn't want a video tape of "An American Tail." Nathan Grochowski doesn't want "a skeleton." Angela Dingman doesn't want "my two front teeth." Asia Carothers doesn't want " candy cause I don't want to get fat."

Tony Millek doesn't want straight F's...and neither did Kris Nelson who got into both lists (wants and doesn'ts) Becky Houghton does not want "a Cabbage Patch nor a lump of coal." Dawn Mann doesn't wnat"my sister to cook."

Kris and Tony also don't want "boy clothes." Shanna Himes doesn't want "a bag of melted snow." Matt Hughes doesn't want "my sister." Andrea Dillon doesn't want "school."

Chad Teague says he doesn't need anymore "teddy bears." Chad Kuhlman doesn't want "pantyhose." Mr. Watterworth doesn't want "losing lottery tickets." Mr. Topp doesn't want "to crash on a jet." Kevin Kruissel doesn't want "Playboy to scramble."

Have a happy new year.

mb/ eb/hb/bs

Assembly today - Concert Dec.1

The middle school choir concert was held last night in conjunction with the high school choir at the high school cafeteria.

Mr. Sang directed the choir in a mixture of traditional and contemporary music. Jenny Lee per formed a solo,"It Came upon a Mid night clear." Courtney Buhl, Sara Labadie amd Jeff Njus were Chipmunks for the song"The Chipmunk Song." Bill McNeil played announcer.

The choir also performed at the elementary school Tuesday morning and will do an assembly here today.

ton